

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Kiyoshi NAKADE : Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH  
Serial No. NEW : Docket No. 2002\_0087A  
Filed January 31, 2002 :  
SLASHER

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0976.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination of the above-identified application, kindly amend  
the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 3-4 and 6-8 as follows:

3.(Amended) The slasher according to claim 1, wherein the moistening unit  
sprinkles water on the warp yarns by spraying water through one or plural nozzles.

4.(Amended) The slasher according to claim 2, wherein the moistening unit  
includes a plurality of nozzle groups each having a plurality of nozzles arranged along  
width of the warp yarns, and the nozzle groups are controlled individually.

6.(Amended) The slasher according to claim 3, wherein the one or plural  
nozzles are movable toward and away from the warp yarns.